

Appl. No. 09/691,645
Amdt. dated May 7, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited
Procedure Examining Group

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Rejection of the Examiner mailed April 8, 2003. Applicant proposes amendment to the claims to place the claims in better format for appeal and to follow the suggestion implicit in the Examiner's Final Rejection.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully requested to page 10, paragraph 16 entitled "Response to Arguments." In paragraph 16 of the Final Rejection the Examiner states:

... However, the claims do not require a continuous,
entirely planar, circumferential surface...

To avoid controversy on appeal over the wording of the claims, applicant proposes amendment to the claims to include the limitation implicitly proposed in the rejection.

Applicant could not have known of this desired language until his receipt of the Final Rejection. It is further submitted that the proposed amendment does not require further search and that issue in this application has been reached. Accordingly the entry of this Amendment is earnestly solicited, and this application either passed to allowance or finally rejected for appeal.

Appl. No. 09/691,645
Amdt. dated May 7, 2003
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited
Procedure Examining Group

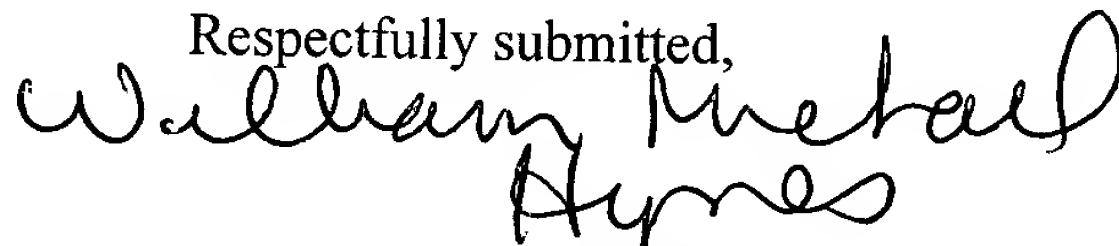
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



William Michael Hynes
Reg. No. 24,168

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
WMH:wmh
SF 1457566 v1